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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7011**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1452

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 9, 2015

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Natural Resources Matters.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Eberhart

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
X DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill allows the Department of Administration to sell abandoned railroad corridor property to an adjacent landowner under certain conditions.

The bill adds supplies purchased for resale at properties owned or managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the purchases exempt from the public purchasing requirements.

The bill allows:

- (1) The State Forester to use a geographic information system for classified land inspections if a landowner chooses to not accompany the State Forester on the inspection.
- (2) The Director of the DNR to declare certain information confidential concerning endangered species.
- (3) The Director to issue an order vacating a public highway within property owned or managed by the DNR.
- (4) The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to set the compensation rate for the development of game bird habitats.
- (5) Licenses, stamps, and permits of the DNR that are purchased electronically to be validated through an electronic affirmation.
- (6) Certain floodway permits to be renewed for five years.

The bill provides that trout and salmon stamps are electronically generated.

The bill establishes the date by which a fur buyer's report must be submitted to the DNR.

The bill removes the exemption for the sale of certain roe-bearing fish from the requirement to have a roe harvester's or dealer's license.

The bill provides that a law enforcement officer may seize certain animals and items if certain laws are violated. (Current law requires seizure.)

The bill transfers administrative control of the Flood Control Revolving Fund from the Natural Resources Commission to the Indiana Finance Authority.

The bill increases the maximum security required for a timber buyer's license to \$50,000 beginning January 1, 2017. It removes the requirement that a timber buyer designate a principle agent.

The bill makes conforming and stylistic changes.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2015.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Department of Administration:* This provision would allow the Department of Administration to eliminate the required process for sales of property in the instance of the sale of state-owned abandoned rail corridor property with an appraised value of less than \$10,000 that abuts the property of an adjacent land owner. The Department would be allowed to sell the property for the appraised value. This provision would be an administrative efficiency.

*Indiana Finance Authority:* The bill would transfer the administration of the Flood Control Revolving Fund from the DNR to the Indiana Finance Authority. Both agencies have indicated that there is no anticipated fiscal impact associated with this transfer.

*Department of Natural Resources:* The bill makes several administrative changes to DNR provisions that should have little or no fiscal impact. These include:

- (1) the State Forester to use a geographic information system for classified land inspections if a landowner chooses to not accompany the State Forester on the inspection.
- (2) the Director of the DNR to declare certain information confidential concerning endangered species.
- (3) the Director to issue an order vacating a public highway within property owned or managed by the DNR.
- (4) the Natural Resources Commission to set the compensation rate for the development of game bird habitats.
- (5) licenses, stamps, and permits of the DNR that are purchased electronically to be validated through an electronic affirmation.
- (6) certain floodway permits to be renewed for five years.
- (7) electronically generated trout and salmon stamps.
- (8) establishing the date by which a fur buyer's report must be submitted to the DNR.
- (9) exempting from the public purchasing requirements, supplies purchased for resale at properties owned or managed by the DNR.
- (10) allowing (rather than requiring) a law enforcement officer to seize certain animals and items if certain laws are violated.

These provisions should all be within DNR's routine administrative functions and should be implemented

with no additional appropriations, assuming near customary agency staffing and resource levels.

*Timber Buyer's Provisions:* The bill increases the maximum amount of a surety bond, cash, or a certificate of deposit that must be filed with the DNR after December 31, 2016, to \$50,000. The current law limits the maximum security deposited to \$20,000. The security is held by the DNR to provide payment for timber growers who may not be paid for the timber harvested by the timber buyer.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** *Roe Harvesters or Roe Dealers Licenses:* The DNR reports that this provision is expected to result in the sale of an additional five roe harvester or roe dealers licenses. The license fees for these licenses are \$1,000 each, resulting in an estimated increase in revenue to the Fish and Wildlife Fund of \$5,000.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** DNR, Department of Administration, Indiana Finance Authority.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** DNR,

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